



SARATOGA COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY
152 WEST HIGH ST., BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

SC-VSA

May 11th, 2013

Executive Summary, Saratoga County, Veterans' Service Agency (VSA)

Subject: Events and Activities Summary for May 5th through May 11th, 2013.

Executive Summary Intent: The purpose of this document is to provide situational awareness and understanding to subordinate and adjacent leaders and staff of the Veterans' Service Agency (VSA). This document does not by itself dictate official policy or decision.

Summary:

1. On May 6th, 2013, I met with Bob Nevins, Saratoga WarHorse. We discussed ways to develop a partnership to serve our Veterans. His programs addresses more serious challenges with PTSD/TBI that our Peer to Peer program may not be able to serve.
2. On May 6th, 2013, I met with Jim Peluso of SoldierOn, Don Little of VETHELP and Alicea Russo of Military One Source. The intent of the meeting was to develop a partnership and establish tentative protocols.
3. On May 6th, 2013, the Saratoga County Veterans Committee met and discussed my initial impressions of the course of my first 45 days. We discussed the new mission statement, vision and priorities of effort.
4. On May 7th, 2013, I attended the Albany County Homeless Veterans Consortium at the invitation of Eric Ehrman, LTC (Ret), Deputy DSS for Albany County. Eric and I were Directors at 10th Mountain at the same time. He was the Director for logistics and I was the Director for Civil Military Operations. We hope to be able to share information and lessons learned between our Counties and our departments.
5. On May 7th, 2013, I visited the City of Mechanicville. Supervisor Richardson was a great host and I was very impressed with the work he and his colleagues have accomplished with grants and relationship building. Highlight to this visit is the employment and entrepreneur potential for our Veterans in Mechanicville. Thanks Tom!
6. Peer to Peer Program. On May 9th, 2013, our Program Coordinator, Amy Hughes met with the Program Lead for Rensselaer County. The intent of this meeting is for both programs to start collaborating and become more inclusive. We have been making the same effort with the Peer to Peer Program with the Albany Housing Coalition/Stratton Medical Center. All three programs have the same Task, Purpose and are seeking to the same effect – Discourage, Mitigate, Delay, Prevent, Disrupt a Veteran from taking his/her life through a peer support network.
 - 1) On May 14th, the VA will be hosted a conference and has invited three programs to sit on a panel to discuss their program and efforts.
 - 2) On June 18th, the programs are invited to be the main speakers at United Way's next Family Support Network meeting on June 18, at 10 a.m. at United Way of the Greater Capital Region.

7. On May 9th, 2013, I attended the Albany County Homeless Veteran's Stand Down Planning Meeting. The intent of the meeting to plan, coordinate and conduct an event that will provide services and resources for the Homeless Veterans of the Capital District. The date of the upcoming Stand Down is 28 Sep 2013.
8. On May 10th, 2013 Elizabeth Donovan, LCSWR, Local Recovery Coordinator, Stratton VA Medical Center, and I discussed methods, directions and timing of our collaborative actions. Our next muscle movement will be to reach out to the family of Elijah Willette with the support of Elizabeth and the Stratton Medical Center. We have already reached out to Elijah's younger brother, Joisah, who has made his family available to us.
9. Veterans Outreach.
 - a. May's 2013 Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony will take place on the 21st at 2:30 in the Board Room. The honoree will be Harold Irving Smith from the Town of Corinth. This ceremony was re-scheduled from March due to weather.
 - b. The Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency van transported 32 Veterans to the VA hospital this week. Ridership derived from the following towns:
 - 1) Saratoga Springs – 9
 - 2) Ballston Spa – 7
 - 3) Stillwater – 7
 - 4) Clifton Park – 3
 - 5) Wilton – 2
 - 6) Mechanicville – 1
 - 7) Milton – 2
 - 8) Moreau – 1
10. Veterans Service Officer Actions.
 - 1) Frank processed 6 new claims at an average of 1.5 hours per claim.
 - 2) Frank conducted 8 open claims follow up engagements at an average of 1.0 hours per engagement.
 - 3) The team scheduled 2 claim appointments at an average of 1.25 hours per scheduling.
 - 4) The team served 8 walk-in clients at an average of 35 minutes per visit.
 - 5) The team processed 59 phone call inquiries at an average of 8 minutes per inquiry.

6) The team received 9 referrals from County DSS resulting in 1 scheduled appointment for next week.

Upcoming Events:

May 13th, 2013.

- Meeting with James Murphy, District Attorney, Saratoga County and Courtney Slade, Veterans Justice Outreach.
- Saratoga County Veterans Employment Task Force Working Group
- Town of Saratoga, Town Hall Meeting

May 14th, 2013.

- Meeting with Patriot Guard Riders
- Conference: Focusing on Recovery and Veterans Peer Support

May 15th, 2013.

- Meeting with Susan M. Verbeke, Veterans Guidance Specialist, NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
- Meeting with Donald Tallman, Wounded Warrior Project
- Meeting with Tim Bachman, American Red Cross and Saratoga County DSS

May 16th, 2013.

- Meet and greet with Assembly "Dan" Stec
- Tour Guardian House
- Meeting with Cora Schroeter and Terri Jasewicz (Congressman Paul Tonko's Staff)

May 17th, 2013.

- Meeting with Saratoga County's Peer to Peer Advisory Group
- VIP Visit: Assemblymen Jim Tedisco with MG Peter Lennon
- Meeting with Dawn Shannon, NPA Financial, LLC

Conclusion: Please attend the interment ceremony of the 14 unclaimed Veteran remains on June 7th, 2013 at 1:00pm. The ceremony will take place at the Saratoga National Cemetery. Some of these veterans have remained unclaimed within our funeral homes for more than 38 years. RSVP: Monday, 13 May 2013 at 1:00pm with me.

Felipe C. Moon/Saratoga County Veterans Service Agency at (518) 884-4116 or fmoon@saratogacountyny.gov.